

Next Steps/Action Plan

Moderator: *Mr. Samuel P. Williamson (Federal Coordinator for Meteorology)*

Rapporteurs: *Mr. Floyd Hauth, Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (Science and Technology Corporation)*

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Synopsis

The Federal Coordinator began the session by inviting participants to provide feedback on the workshop topics and issues. These may be sent to samuel.williamson@noaa.gov.

Mr. Williamson described the next steps in developing a strategy for providing atmospheric information. He noted that more than 170 people attended the workshop and that the participants represented the many sectors of the community, including both providers and users of atmospheric/environmental information. In general, the challenge for the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology (OFCM) is to improve the coordination processes in two areas: interaction with the private sector to build better alliances, and promoting the feedback needed for the requirements setting process.

The Federal Coordinator reviewed the overarching goals and objectives of the workshop as briefed on Monday. During the workshop progress was made in putting key issues on the table and in defining a framework for a strategy for providing atmospheric information. Issues identified included the application of standards, coordination methodology, and improving access to information while meeting security constraints related to homeland security. The strategy must address how to evolve a national information system that includes the spectrum of disciplines involved and serves the diverse user applications of atmospheric information. The intent is to make atmospheric information more widely available to all users.

Issues identified during the workshop will be captured in the workshop proceedings. The overarching approach is to work the highest priority issues immediately. Therefore, the Federal Coordinator will inform the Federal Committee for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (FCMSSR) about the high priority near-term and strategic challenges.

The highest priority near-term challenge must be to determine how to effectively acquire data in support of homeland security. To investigate issues associated with this challenge the Federal Coordinator plans to form a Joint Action Group to determine methods for accessing existing data in urban areas to initialize mesoscale forecast models.

The highest priority strategic challenge is to develop a strategy for providing atmospheric information. When the Federal Coordinator reports the results of this workshop to FCMSSR

he will seek its endorsement of a framework for pursuing the long-term evolution to an environment that is more conducive to the timely sharing of usable atmospheric information.

The OFCM staff will review the other recommendations made during this workshop. Items will be assigned to existing committees/groups if possible and joint action groups will be formed to address other recommendations as necessary.